

a sealing gland within said housing having a plurality of bores extending therethrough, each of the plurality of bores adapted for receiving a respective one of the first plurality of electrical conductors;

2 a plurality of pin and socket pairs within said housing for providing an electrical connection location between respective ones of said first plurality of conductors and respective ones of said second plurality of conductors; and

means for compressing said gland to develop a sealing barrier around each of said first plurality of conductors and a sealing barrier around each said electrical connection location.

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#### Remarks

Claims 1-53 were pending.

Claim 54 has been added.

Claim 54 is a generic claim which covers all embodiments of the invention described in the application.

#### **The Election Of Species Requirement:**

The Examiner has required an election under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to one of the following species:

Group I, Figure 1.

Group II, Figure 2.

Group III, Figure 3.

Group IV, Figure 4.

The Applicant elects, with traverse, the species of Group I.

Claims 12-20 and 54 are readable on Group I.

Claim 54 is generic to Groups I, II, III, and IV.

With respect to the Examiner's division of the application into four groups, Applicant respectfully traverses. Even assuming arguendo that Groups I, II, III, and IV listed by the Examiner are distinct or independent, Applicant respectfully submits that a search of the subject matter of all of the claims together would not be a serious burden on the Examiner. M.P.E.P § 809 (Original Eighth Edition, August 2001) states that:

[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions.

In view of this standard, Applicant respectfully submits that claims to all of Groups I, II, III, and IV should be searched and examined. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121 be withdrawn upon reconsideration. Applicant reserves the right to petition from the restriction requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.144.

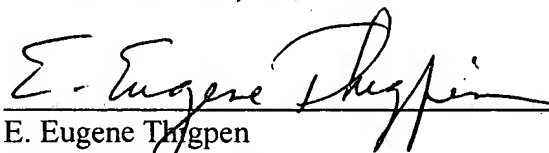
Applicant concurrently files a Petition for Extension of Time to extend the period for response from February 15, 2002 to May 15, 2002. A check to cover the extension fees is attached to the Petition.

Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to charge the \$84.00 claim fee for new independent claim 54, any additional fees required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-223, Order No. P30213US of Petroleum Geo-Services, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 15, 2002

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